

What is claimed is:

1. A raisable panel suspendable from a rod, when raised the panel is free of ballooning, the panel comprising:
  - (i) a horizontally extending top and a horizontally extending bottom;
  - 5 (ii) a front side and a back side;
  - (iii) a plurality of horizontally extending vertically spaced slats; the slats are positioned along the panel, the slats are substantially parallel with the top of the panel;
  - (iv) a sleeve positioned at or near the top of the panel to enable insertion of the rod through the sleeve for installing and suspending the panel; the sleeve is adapted to enable the installation to be completed without collateral hardware;
  - (v) a plurality of rows of vertically spaced guide elements on the back side of the panel, multiple pull cords secured at or near the bottom of the panel at laterally spaced locations corresponding to the row of guide elements, each pull cord passing through one row of vertically spaced guide elements from the bottom of the panel to the uppermost guide element, and then extending laterally along at or near a top of the panel; the guide elements defining vertically spaced fold lines to form predetermined horizontally stacking pleats when the panel is raised, wherein the length of the pleats are substantially parallel to the top of the panel; and
- 10 (vi) when the pull cord is pulled down, thereby causing the panel folds upon
- 15
- 20

itself laterally along the fold lines defined by the guide elements, thereby forming a series of predetermined horizontally stacking pleats free of ballooning; the pleats gathering in a lateral direction on the back side of the panel, the overlapping pleats forming longitudinally extending folds.

5           2.       The panel of claim 1, wherein the horizontally stacking pleats comprising a front pleat, each pleat having a bottom; the bottom of each pleat being substantially even with the bottom of the front pleat when the panel is fully raised.

3.       The panel of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is a tab-backed sleeve positioned at or near the top of the panel.

10          4.       The panel of claim 5, wherein the sleeve extends continuously along the top of the panel.

5.       The panel of claim 1, wherein the sleeve comprises at least two separate sections positioned at or near the top of the panel.

15          6.       The panel of claim 1, wherein the sleeve comprises multiple tabs extending laterally along at or near the top of the panel.

7.       The panel of claim 1, wherein the panel comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of natural fabric or synthetic fabric.

8.       The panel of claim 7, wherein the natural fabric is cotton, linen or silk.

9.       The panel of claim 7, wherein the synthetic fabric is polyester or nylon.

20          10.      The panel of claim 1, wherein, the panel is a room divider.

11.      The panel of claim 1, wherein the panel is a wall hanging.

12.      The panel of claim 1, further comprising a planar bottom edge.

13. The panel of claim 1, wherein the length of the panel is about 30 inches, about 35 inches, about 40 inches, about 52 inches, or about 72 inches.
14. The panel of claim 1, wherein the width of the panel is about 75 inches, about 72 inches, or about 84 inches.
- 5       15. The panel of claim 1, wherein the slat comprises a narrow strip.
16. The panel of claim 1, wherein the slat comprises a dowel.
17. The panel of claim 1, further comprising 2 to 10 slats.
18. The panel of claim 1, further comprising 2 to 6 pull cords.
19. A raisable window treatment suspendable from a rod, when raised the
- 10      window treatment is free of ballooning; the window treatment comprising:
- (i) a horizontally extending top and a horizontally extending bottom;
- (ii) a front side and a back side;
- (iii) a plurality of horizontally extending vertically spaced slats; the slats are positioned along the panel, the slats are substantially parallel to the top of the panel;
- 15      (iv) a sleeve positioned at or near the top of the window treatment to enable insertion of the rod through the sleeve for installation of the window treatment; the sleeve is adapted to enable the installation to be completed without collateral hardware;
- 20      (v) a plurality of rows of vertically spaced guide elements on the back side of the panel, and multiple pull cords secured at or near the bottom of the panel at laterally spaced locations corresponding to the row of guide

elements, each pull cord passing through one row of vertically spaced guide elements from the bottom of the panel to the uppermost guide element, and then extending laterally along at or near of a top of the panel; the guide elements defining vertically spaced fold lines to form predetermined horizontally stacking pleats when the window treatment is raised, wherein the length of the pleats are substantially parallel to the top of the panel; and

5 (vi) when the pull cord is pulled downward, panel folds upon itself laterally along the fold lines defined by the guide elements; thereby forming a series of predetermined horizontally stacking pleats free of ballooning; the 10 pleats gathering in a lateral direction on the back side of the panel, the pleats forming longitudinally extending folds.

20. The window treatment of claim 19, wherein the sleeve is a tab-backed sleeve positioned at or near the top of the panel.

15 21. The window treatment of claim 19, wherein the sleeve extends continuously along the top of the panel.

22. The window treatment of claim 19, wherein the sleeve comprises at least two separate sections positioned at or near the top of the panel.

23. The window treatment of claim 19, wherein the sleeve comprises multiple 20 tabs extending laterally along at or near the top of the panel.

24. The window treatment of claim 19, wherein the panel comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of natural fabric or synthetic fabric.

**25.** The window treatment of claim 24, wherein the natural fabric is cotton, linen or silk.

**26.** The window treatment of claim 24, wherein the synthetic fabric is polyester or nylon.

5       **27.** The window treatment of claim 19, wherein the window treatment accommodates a plurality of window sizes when suspended.

**28.** The window treatment of claim 1, further comprising a planar bottom edge.

10      **29.** The window treatment of claim 19, wherein the length of the panel is about 30 inches, about 35 inches, about 40 inches, about 52 inches, or about 72 inches.

**30.** The window treatment of claim 19, wherein the width of the panel is about 75 inches, about 72 inches, or about 84 inches.

**31.** The window treatment of claim 19, wherein the slat comprises a narrow strip.

15      **32.** The window treatment of claim 19, wherein the slat comprises a dowel.

**33.** The window treatment of claim 19, further comprising 2 to 10 slats.

**34.** The window treatment of claim 19, further comprising 2 to 6 pull cords.

**35.** A raisable panel suspendable from a rod, when raised the panel is substantially free of ballooning; the panel comprising:

- 20      (i)     a horizontally extending top and a horizontally extending bottom;  
                 (ii)    a front side and a back side;  
                 (iii)   a plurality of horizontally extending vertically spaced slats;

- (iv) multiple rings at or near the top of the panel to enable insertion of the rod through the rings for installing and suspending the panel; the rings being adapted to enable installation of the panel to be completed without collateral hardware;
  - 5 (v) a plurality of rows of vertically spaced guide elements on the back side of the panel, and multiple pull cords secured at or near the bottom of the panel at laterally spaced locations corresponding to the row of guide elements, each pull cord passing through one row of vertically spaced guide elements from the bottom of the panel to the uppermost guide element, and then extending laterally along at or near of the top portion of the panel; and
  - (vi) when the panel is raised, the panel folds upon itself laterally along fold lines defined by the guide elements, thereby forming a series of predetermined horizontally stacking pleats free of ballooning.
- 10
- 15 36. The panel of claim 35, wherein, the panel is a fabric panel.
  - 37. The panel of claim 35, wherein, the panel is a room divider.
  - 38. The panel of claim 35, wherein the panel is a wall hanging.
  - 39. The panel of claim 35, further comprising a planar bottom edge.
  - 40. The panel of claim 35, wherein the length of the panel is about 30 inches,
- 20 about 35 inches, about 40 inches, about 52 inches, or about 72 inches.
- 41. The panel of claim 35, wherein the width of the panel is about 75 inches, about 72 inches, or about 84 inches.

42. The panel of claim 35, wherein the slat comprises a narrow strip.
43. The panel of claim 35, wherein the slat comprises a dowel.
44. The panel of claim 35, further comprising 2 to 10 slats.
45. The panel of claim 35, further comprising 2 to 6 pull cords.
- 5      46. A raisable window treatment suspendable from a rod, when raised the window treatment is free of ballooning, the panel comprising:
- (i) a horizontally extending top and a horizontally extending bottom;
- (ii) a front side and a back side;
- (iii) a plurality of horizontally extending vertically spaced slats; the slats are positioned along the panel, the slats are substantially parallel with the top of the panel;
- 10     (iv) multiple rings at or near the top of the panel to enable insertion of the rod through the rings for installing and suspending the panel; the rings being adapted to enable installation of the panel to be completed without collateral hardware;
- 15     (v) a plurality of rows of vertically spaced guide elements on the back side of the panel, multiple pull cords secured at or near the bottom of the panel at laterally spaced locations corresponding to the row of guide elements, each pull cord passing through one row of vertically spaced guide elements from the bottom of the panel to the uppermost guide element, and then extending laterally along at or near a top of the panel; the guide elements defining vertically spaced fold lines to form predetermined

horizontally stacking pleats when the panel is raised, wherein the length of the pleats are substantially parallel to the top of the panel; and

- (vi) when the pull cord is pulled down, the window treatment folds upon itself laterally along the fold lines defined by the guide elements, thereby forming a series of predetermined horizontally stacking pleats free of ballooning; the pleats gathering in a lateral direction on the back side of the panel, the overlapping pleats forming longitudinally extending folds.
- 5           **47.** The window treatment of claim 46, wherein the panel is a fabric panel.
- 48.** The window treatment of claim 46, wherein, the panel is a room divider.
- 10          **49.** The window treatment of claim 46, wherein the panel is a wall hanging.
- 50.** The window treatment of claim 46, further comprising a planar bottom edge.

**51.** The window treatment of claim 46, wherein the length of the panel is about 30 inches, about 35 inches, about 40 inches, about 52 inches, or about 72 inches.

- 15          **52.** The window treatment of claim 46, wherein the width of the panel is about 75 inches, about 72 inches, or about 84 inches.

**53.** The window treatment of claim 46, wherein the slat comprises a narrow strip.

- 54.** The window treatment of claim 46, wherein the slat comprises a dowel.
- 20          **55.** The window treatment of claim 46, further comprising 2 to 10 slats.
- 56.** The window treatment of claim 46, further comprising 2 to 6 pull cords.
- 57.** A raisable panel suspendable from a rod, when raised the panel is free of

ballooning; the panel comprising:

- (i) a horizontally extending top and a horizontally extending bottom;
- (ii) a front side and a back side;
- (iii) a plurality of horizontally extending vertically spaced slats; the slats are positioned along the panel, the slats are substantially parallel to the top of the panel;
- (iv) a sleeve positioned at or near the top of the panel to enable insertion of the rod through the sleeve for installing and suspending the panel; the sleeve being adapted to enable installation of the panel to be completed without collateral hardware;
- (v) means for raising and lowering the panel; and
- (vi) when the panel is raised, the panel folds upon itself laterally forming a series of predetermined horizontally stacking pleats free of ballooning, billowing.

15       **58.**      The panel of claim 57, wherein the horizontally stacking pleats comprising a front pleat, each pleat having a bottom; the bottom of each pleat being substantially even with the bottom of the front pleat when the panel is fully raised.

16       **59.**      The panel of claim 57, wherein the sleeve is a tab-backed sleeve positioned at or near the top of the panel.

20       **60.**      The panel of claim 57, wherein the sleeve extends continuously along the top of the panel.

**61.**      The panel of claim 57, wherein the sleeve comprises at least two separate

sections positioned at or near the top of the panel.

62. The panel of claim 57, wherein the sleeve comprises multiple tabs extending laterally along at or near the top of the panel.

63. The panel of claim 57, wherein the panel comprises one or more materials  
5 selected from the group consisting of natural fabric or synthetic fabric.

64. The panel of claim 63, wherein the natural fabric is cotton, linen or silk.

65. The panel of claim 63, wherein the synthetic fabric is polyester or nylon.

66. The panel of claim 57, wherein the panel is a window treatment.

67. The panel of claim 57, wherein, the panel is a room divider.

10 68. The panel of claim 57, wherein the panel is a wall hanging.

69. The panel of claim 57, further comprising a planar bottom edge.

70. The panel of claim 57, wherein the length of the panel is about 30 inches,  
about 35 inches, about 40 inches, about 52 inches, or about 72 inches.

71. The panel of claim 57, wherein the width of the panel is about 75 inches,  
15 about 72 inches, or about 84 inches.

72. The panel of claim 57, wherein the slat comprises a narrow strip.

73. The panel of claim 57, wherein the slat comprises a dowel.

74. The panel of claim 57, further comprising 2 to 10 slats.

75. The panel of claim 57, further comprising 2 to 6 pull cords.